A correspondent of the London Athenoum wites as follows:—

JANUARY 29, 1869.—Some years ago there appeared in, I think, "Notes and Queries" an account of a trip to the rains of an ancient city in Africa which has since been suggested to be the Ophir of Scripture; and it may be interesting to some of your readers to know such particulars of these rains as could be accertained by a traveller who did not acceptably reach the site himself.

Last June I was at the small town of Leydenhare, in the Transvani or South African Re-

berg, in the Transvaal or South African Republic, and showed a copy of the story to the Rev. — Nachtigal, of the Berlin Mission, whose station is there, and who, as the story teld, was, with his fellow-missionary, Mr. Merenski, the author of the expedition; he smiled at many of his statements, such as incidents about baby elephants and ill-treated baboons tollowing his party; but told me that the story was founded on fact, and gave me an ontline of his journey. From his account, which I had confirmed entirely by one Kafir and in parts by others, I gather the following, and in parts by others, I gather the following, the publicity of which may induce future travellers and sportsmen to see further for themselves, and perhaps even leave the South African gold fields for what would certainly be a most interesting trip.

From Leydenberg an explorer can take his bull ock-wagon three days (say sixty miles) in a northerly direction, and must then, with the assistance of Kafirs, travel on foot through the rough country. Nine days' easy walking will bring him to the Limpopo, Oori, or Bembe river (being known by the latter name); but before crossing this he will see the ruins of a email town, which, however, have been almost totally destroyed. Two or three days more will take him to another set of ruins of a similar nature. The missionaries passed over these without noticing more than that they had been ancient buildings, and could not have, nor is there any probability that they had, been the work of natives. Their object was to push on to the largest of the ruins known to be in that country, as the short winter season allowed them but a limited time. As, however, fever was very prevalent among the natives, and some of their own party were ill, when they were within sight of these rains, on the north bank of the Kuisi or Sabia, a river running eastwards, they were compelled to return, but noticed that there were buildings of masonry and out stone-work, with one block like a tower and several other considerable portions standing. The name of these deserted ruins is Bunyoai, situated in about latitude 20 deg. 50 min. south, lengitude 32 deg. east, and the people living near them are the Banyai or Quarri-quarri Kafirs; they show no hostility to the white man, unless he is a Dutch Boer, who could not safely venture into their country; and I think it is partly because the Boers, who are as a rule the pioneer hunters of Bouth Africa, and partly because no African traveller happens to have struck this route, that no better accounts have been brought down, and that these ruins have not been examined. The natives are a mixture of different tribes, partaking both of the Basuto and the Zulu type and language—the two chief divisions in Southeastern Africa, and which appear to have started from a common origin further north, and emigrated southward in two streams, divided by the great range of the Drakensberg, or Katlamba.

I am disposed to draw this latter conclusion from several points in their language, and one is almost inclined to believe that the real

among these savages on the east coast; in such words, for instance, as "to go": among the Amalunga tribe, or Knobnoses, famba; in the Suasi tribe two hundred miles south, uamba, almost wamba; further south, Zulu, hamba, more or less aspirated; and in Natal, amba. To a stranger, the language of the Basutos, from the perpetual ringing of the letter "r," sounds peculiarly different from that of the Zulus, who cannot pronounce that letter; but a very short examination shows the close between the two languages-the letter "r" being constantly substituted for the Zulu "1" in such words as (Zulu) umlilo.

diagamms of Greek philology is to be found

"fire," Basuto umriro, and often the change of a "t" into "r," as in (Zulu) inyati, "buffalo;" Basuto, 'nhari. Both languages have also the sansative, reciprocal, and other formations of

The existence of the ruins above referred to, or similar ones, has been known for many years, and they have been alluded to in several old travels; and apparently in connection with the gold trade, but of course such accounts must be taken for what they are worth, as they contain many absurdities. In "The Modern Part of an Universal History" (London, 1781), the most considerable gold-mines are placed in the district of Manica, the name of either the river Sabia or the Lim-popo; and in "A Collection of Voyages and Travels" (London, 1746), and several ether similar works, is an account of a Portuguese journey in 1569, in which reference is made to ruins of "structures built with stone, the and timber" being met with in different Hime and timber" being met with in different parts of the country, and in one account the name Afur is given as that of one act of rains, or perhaps of the whele district; but I sannot ascertain whether this name existed there on the first discovery by the Portu-guese, or whether they called it Afur because they wished it to be the real Ophir. From this coincidence, however (if it is one), and the name of the river Sabia (unde Sheba), combined with the recent discovery of large cold-fields in the same neighborhood, some rsons go so far as to conclude that the Biblial account is but a short history of Bunyoai. What are these ruins? Are they the remains of defensive buildings, or mercantile empori-

mas of a past civilization, or the works of some ancient religious order? As this part of Africa is now being drawn into notice, and many are leaving England, some attracted by the prospects of gold and others with the idea of a successful sporting or trading venture—it would be well if a tra-reller could be induced to make notes of and compare such things as he may observe in the customs and languages of these tribes, with a view to assisting ethnologists, rather than swell his published account into what is often little better than a batcher's diary.

J. D. R.

Foreign Items. -Gold diggings in the north of Scotland will be a surprise to many persons; but there they are, in the shire of Sutherland, and with a number of diggers who are collecting allu-vium from the borders of the Holmsdals river, and washing it in the stream. The hape £200 worth, but the quality is described as good, and the color bright; and diggers who have worked in Australia are of opinion who have worked in Australia are of opinion that when proper means are taken the yield will be semething considerable. Are we about to witness a "rush" to the Sutherlandshire diggings? and shall we see the wild strath in which the gold lies buried, sprinkled with tents, and noisy with the eager labor and entery of an excited population?

-Haren Tauchnitz, of Leipsic, whose name and publications will be known to all our tra-welling friends, has published a small pamph-let on the project of a copyright law for the

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North-German Confederation. We gather from his pages that the proposed copyright is to last thirty years from the author's death. The Baron's chief suggestions are, that the copyright of German works should not be confined to the subjects of these States which form the Confederation should set an example to foreign countries in the matter of International copyright. These two proposals go beyond the ideas of legislators, to judge from the sections of the projected law which Baron Tauchnitz quotes, as well as from the English Acts on the subject. But the last decision of the House of Lords (Routledge vs. Low) accords with Baron Tauchnitz's suggestion, and makes it all the more valuable.

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November 1, 1869.

South of the Mary Instruction of Philadelphia, our large and extensive store and valuable stock of merchandise, No. 902 Chesnut street. more valuable.

-A reader of a very old astronomical book was puzzled and rather frightened, by finding that the moon went round the earth in some that the moon went round the earth in some-thing between four and five minutes. He had to ponder until he found out that the minute mentioned was the minute of a year. In the old sexagesimal division, the sixtieth part of anything was called its minute; the sixtieth part of the minute was called the second, and so on. Thus, the minute of a year is a little more than six days; the minute of a mile newards of 29 yards. In minute of a mile upwards of 29 yards. In 1851 a certain Maurice Bressius published his "Metrice Astronomica," in which sines are sexagesimally represented. His radius was 60 degrees, and so his sine of 76 degrees 20 minutes was 58 degrees, 22 minutes, 57

-The distinction between the vero and the ben trevate made by the Italians is that of truth and good fictitious description. The stories of the two classes only differ in this, that the first often have an improbability which the second dare not reach. The true stories of absent men cannot be exceeded. We know the man who has-more than once or twice-put on his spectacles to help him to look for them. We know the man who had forgotten the name of—say A, and the first time he met a man who knew it, burst out with "I have forgotten A's name; what is it?"
We are inclined to believe, from the manner
in which it first reached us, the anecdote of Sir Thomas Strange, the Indian judge, who found, on paying a visit, that his friend was not in, and that he had forgotten his own I'll call again; never mind my name.—Sir! master always likes to know the names of gentlemen who call.-Why, to tell the truth, I have forgotten my name.—That's strange, sir.—So it is, my man. You've hit it!—and he went away, leaving the servant quite in the dark. But we suppose the following anecdote of Robert Simson must be ben trovato; though the tradition is strong. He used to sit at his open window on the groundfloor, as deep in geometry as a Robert Simson ought to be. Here he would be accosted by a beggar: he would rouse himself, hear a few words of the story, make his donation, and dive. Some wags one day stopped a mendicant one day on his way to the window with "Now! do as we tell you and you will get something from that gentleman, and a shilling from us besides. He will ask who you are, and you will say Robert Simson, son of John Simson, of Kirktonhill." The man did as he was told: Simson gave him a coin and drop-ped off. He soon roused himself and said, Robert Simson! son of John Simson, of Kirktonhill! why, that is myself! that man must be an impostor! Lord Brougham gives this anecdote, with less detail than in the version received by us.

-Ehrenberg has communicated to the Academy of Sciences, Berlin, of which he is a member, a short notice of the specimens brought up from the sea-bottom by soundings during the North-German Polar Expedition of last season. The specimens are thirty-nine in number, collected from latitude 73 degrees to 80 degrees north—an area extending from the Bear Islands and beyond Spitzbergen to the coast of Greenland. Six of them were taken, it appears, between 80 degrees and 81 degrees, and in longitude 13, 14, 15, and 16 degrees east from Greenwich. As regards depth, thirty-two of the specimens were brought up from less than 100 fathoms, four from 135 to 170 fathoms, two from 140 to 250 fathems, and one from 300 fathoms. This latter was in latitude 76 deg. 36 min. north, and longitude 15 degrees 52 minutes East. These depths, though not great, have, as Professor Ehrenberg remarks, the advantage of certainty, which cannot always be claimed for soundings at 1000 or 2000 fathoms. The scientific character and value of the specimens have yet to be made out, and for this they must undergo a rigorous cleansing from the tallow of the sounding lead by which they were lifted. But after Ehrenberg has had them under his microscope, we shall not have long to wait for explicit information on these points; and further light will be thrown on the question which, in his opinion, is the most important of all, namely, whether the six classes of microscopic creatures already described in "Microgéologie" are found unmixed or mixed with other, hitherto unknown, forms within the Polar Circle? To obtain conclusive proofs of the relations of organic life in its minutest forms throughout the globe would be worth all the cost and labor be-stowed in obtaining them. Moreover, according to the nature of the specimens brought up, whether fine or coarse, slimy or powdery, will, as is thought, be the evidence of streams, swirls, or quietness in the depths of the ocean. Should Mr. Petermann and his friends attempt another expedition in the coming summer, ft another expedition in the coming summer, it is to be hoped they will rely more on the dredge than on the sounding-lead for specimens from the bottom. Taken in connection with the results obtained by the expedition under Drs. Carpenter and Wyville Thomson (an interesting report of which has been printed in the "Proceedings of the Royal Society"), a higher value attaches to the speciment. ciety"), a higher value attaches to the speci-mens brought home by the German expeditions.

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exposed situation, and fell with the burning floors
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This is an entirely new heater. It is so consistenced as to acce commend itself to general favous being a combination of wrought and cast from 112 very simple in its construction, and is perfectly attacked out and cleaned. It is so arranged with upright fines as to produce a larger amount of heat from the same weight of cost inhan any furnace now in use. The hygometic condition of the air as produced by my new arrangement of evaporation will at once demonstrate that it is the only Hot air Furnace that will produce a perefitly heauthy atmosphere.

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